

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 - 7, 9 and 11 are currently pending in the application. By the foregoing, claims 1 and 9 are amended and claims 8, 10, and 12 - 35 are cancelled without prejudice. The amendment to claims 1 and 9 contains no new matter.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claim 10 contains allowable subject matter. Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 10, which the Examiner has indicated as allowable, and intervening claim 8. Therefore, amended claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Claims 8, 10, and 12 - 35 have been cancelled without prejudice. The remaining claims depend, either directly or indirectly, from allowable claim 1 (as amended). Therefore, only allowable claims remain in the application.

In the Action, claims 1, 3 - 9, and 33 - 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and claim 11 was rejected under § 103. The amendment to claim 1, incorporating the allowable subject matter of claim 10 and intervening claim 8, renders the rejections moot. Reconsideration of these claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone

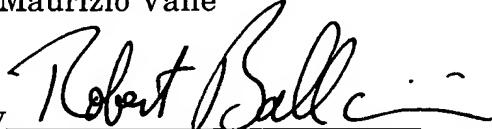
Applicant: Maurizio Valle
Application No.: 10/616,830

interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application, including claims 1, 3 - 7, 9 and 11, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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